

In the Specification

On page 2, please replace the first and second full paragraphs with the following:

Applications of preregs have been diversified. Preregs having thin and small irregularity in thickness are demanded. To product such a prepreg, a technique for widely and thinly spreading a fiber bundle without degrading the bundle is necessary.

For spreading a fiber bundle, JP-56-43435-A teaches a method of spreading a fiber bundle, in which the fiber bundle is transferred in contact with plural rollers while being bent around the rollers, and ~~are~~ is brought into pressure contact with a cylindrical body vibrating in the axial direction during such transfer operation. JP-61-275438-A discloses a method of spreading a fiber bundle, in which the fiber bundle is transferred in contact with a reciprocating body or rotating body, while being vibrated in the vertical direction, and furthermore brought into pressure contact with a body having a curved surface. JP-7-268754-A proposes a method of spreading a fiber bundle, in which the fiber bundle is transferred in contact with a group of rollers including an eccentrically rotating body, to be spread by means of the eccentrically rotating body.

On page 4, please replace the second paragraph with the following:

Disclosure of the Invention

The apparatus for producing a spread fiber bundle of the invention to solve the above problem comprises a group of at least two rollers kept in contact with a running fiber bundle, and a base body reciprocating to be repetitively brought into contact with and kept away from the running fiber bundle as the axial center of said base body moves relatively to the running fiber bundle, said base body being provided between at least a pair of rollers adjacent to each other in said group of rollers.

On page 5, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

In the invention, the base body means a member used for spreading a transferred fiber bundle.

On page 5, please replace the third paragraph with the following:

The base body can be either a fixed body comprising a rod like member supported at both of its ~~both~~ end portions without being rotated around the axis in the longitudinal direction thereof or a rotatable body comprising a rod like member supported at both of its both end portions rotatably around the axis in the longitudinal direction thereof.

On page 7, please replace the first full paragraph with the following:

In the apparatus for producing a spread fiber bundle of the invention, it is preferable that the base body is provided together with one or more identical ~~body~~ bodies.

On page 21, please replace the second full paragraph with the following:

The fiber-spreading device 1 was provided with a first roller 3a, a second roller 3b, a base body 2, a third roller 3c, a fourth roller 3d and a dancer roller 5, ~~to name~~ from the upstream side to the downstream side in the running direction of the fiber bundles.

On page 22, please replace the third paragraph with the following:

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the first roller 3a, the second roller 3b, the base body 2, the third roller 3c and the fourth roller 3d in the fiber-spreading device 1. In Fig. 2, the state in which the base body 2 ~~moved upward~~ is movable upwardly is indicated by a dotted line.

On page 24, please replace the third full paragraph with the following:

The fiber bundles 7 which had a width of 7 mm before they were spread were spread to have an average width of 30 mm uniformly in the longitudinal direction of the fiber bundles 7,

and the fiber spreading was satisfactory. The fuzz generation rank was 5, and the generation of fuzz was almost zero. Furthermore, ~~the~~ breaking of the fiber bundles 7 was not observed.